

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 72**

January 22, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes the practice of physical therapy under the written or oral referral of a nurse practitioner or physician assistant. Removes certain minimum education requirements to engage in the independent practice of physical therapy.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-13-104 the practice of physical therapy may only be under the written or oral referral of a licensed doctor of medicine, chiropractic, dentistry, podiatry, or osteopathy.
- The proposed legislation would expand referral privileges to nurse practitioners and physicians assistants.
- Removing certain minimum education requirements for the practice of physical therapy without a referral is not estimated to have significant impact on the number of licensed physical therapists in the state or any programs offered by an institution of higher education.
- Any necessary rule changes can be accommodated within the Board of Physical Therapy's regularly-scheduled meetings at no additional cost.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-29-121, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. The Board of Physical Therapy had a deficit of \$17,537 in FY20-21, a surplus of \$48,753 in FY21-22, and a cumulative reserve balance of \$522,804 on June 30, 2022.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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